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(71) Applicant:
Siemens Information and Communication
Networks Inc.
Boca Raton, FL 33487 (US)

(72) Inventors:

- Shaffer, Shmuel
Palo Alto, CA 94301 (US)
- Beyda, William J.
Cupertino, CA 95014 (US)

(74) Representative: Allen, Derek
Siemens Group Services Limited,
Intellectual Property Department,
Siemens House,
Oldbury
Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8FZ (GB)

(54) Method and system for providing data security and protection against unauthorised telephonic access

(57) A method and system for providing security for a computing device include resolving conflicts between a password-protected screen saver and communication notification capabilities by selectively enabling access to specific communications when the computing device is in a locked mode. The screen saver of the computing device is configured to switch the device from a normal operative mode to a locked mode in response to detection of a preset condition, such as the expiration of an idle-time timer. The computing device then remains in the locked mode until a preset authorization condition is recognized, e.g., entering a password. However, with the computing device in the locked mode, a subset of communication access capabilities is enabled. Specifically, notification of incoming communications is enabled. Preferably, connectivity for select types of outgoing calls is also enabled, e.g., connectivity for emergency calls. In the preferred embodiment, the conflicts are resolved by integrating the screen saver with communication access capabilities in a single software package. Also in the preferred embodiment, the communication access capabilities are provided by a telephony over LAN application and a switch to the locked mode is disabled during communication sessions involving the computing device.

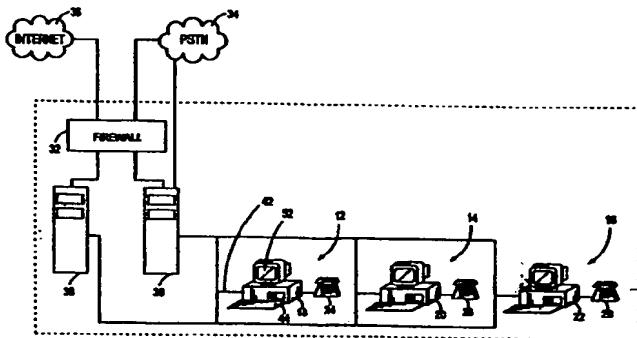


FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)						
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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BERLIN</td> <td>3 December 1999</td> <td>Taylor, P</td> </tr> </table> <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons R : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	BERLIN	3 December 1999	Taylor, P
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BERLIN	3 December 1999	Taylor, P							

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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